

**REMARKS**

This is in full and timely response to the above-identified Office Action. The above listing of the claims supersedes any previous listing. Favorable reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

**Claim amendments/Status**

In this response claims 16-18 are cancelled. This renders the rejections under 35 USC § 112 first and second paragraphs, and the associated rejection of the specification under 37 CFR 1.171, respectively moot.

Inasmuch as claims 9-15 have been allowed and claims 1-8 were previously cancelled, it is submitted that this application has been placed in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

**Conclusion**

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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